

Nebraska Commission on the Status of Women
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2008
Lincoln, NE

Commissioners present: Kathy McKillip, John Nejad, Kathy Bradley, Teresa Maxwell, Bernadette Esposito, Barb Micek, Jolanda Junge-Kuzma, Jennifer Gutierrez, and Anne Hobbs.

Government liaison/ Guest: Liz Hruska

Commissioners excused: Betty Reeg

Commissioners absent: Charlene Hirsh, Megan Lucas, Barb McPhillips

Open Meetings Law: Posted and Announced

Call to order: 10:06 am by Chair Kathy McKillip

Notification of Public Notice: Public Notice of the NCSW Quarterly Meeting was posted electronically on the NCSW website.

Approval of Agenda:

Minutes were revised. Commissioner Junge-Kuzma indicated that notice was NOT made in the Omaha World Herald and LJS. She also commented regarding inventory.

MOTION: By Commissioner Junge-Kuzma to approve the revised agenda.

SECOND: Commissioner Gutierrez

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

The minutes were discussed briefly, and it was decided to keep the level of detail.

MOTION: By Commissioner Bradley moved to post minutes on the website

SECOND: Commissioner Junge-Kuzma

VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Article: Chair McKillip did an update on positive activities with the NCSW the article and leadership class. She shared a number of supportive emails and feedback regarding the NCSW with the group. Commissioner Micek also shared a great deal of the positive feedback that she had received on the Displaced Dreams Project and the NCSW, from colleges, businesses, Senators and community members. The NCSW has received a lot of good feedback about the brochures and the posters.

Financial Report:

Report made by Commissioner Nejad. Commissioner Junge-Kuzma will submit an email as documentation for two contested bills – and will include the Treasurer Commissioner Nejad in the email. Commissioner Junge-Kuzma will contact accounting to inquire about the balance with regard to the encumbrances and carry-over.

MOTION: Commissioner Bradley moved that Commissioner Junge-Kuzma and Commissioner Nejad contact the State accounting office to review encumbrances and any items of concern.

SECOND: Commissioner Maxwell

VOTE: Roll call taken – the vote was unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

Commission Activity Update:

The Commission has done some outstanding marketing recently including: Displaced Dreams, brochure, printers press spotlight, Op-Ed Piece, tables at two conferences in Eastern Nebraska (tables), website highlights. Commissioner Gutierrez remarked on the outstanding number of “Awareness” goals the Commission has accomplished after six months.

Some of the commissioners have met with some of their Senators – and constituents, and a great deal of marketing and attention

Statute Update:

Although the Commissioners had hoped to revise the NCSW governing statutes during this (2008) session, the statute required more than a few revisions. Rather than rush through and only make minor changes, the Commissioners agreed to examine the necessary changes, starting first with the title of the Commission. There was a great deal of discussion about the name of the Commission and the mission.

MOTION: Commissioner Hobbs moved to adopt the name Commission on the Status of Family, and to seek to change that by statute at the soonest possible date.

SECOND: Commissioner Junge-Kuzma seconded and discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Hobbs withdrew her former motion and made a new motion to adopt the name Nebraska Commission For Families, and to seek to change that by statute during the next legislative session.

SECOND: Commissioner Junge-Kuzma accepted the revisions and seconded.

VOTE: Roll call taken – the vote was unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

No other recommendations were made on the statute at this time - but commissioners were encouraged to consider the revisions necessary, and be prepared to discuss all recommendations by the Annual Commission meeting scheduled for April 2008.

Break for Lunch at 12:00 p.m.

Return from lunch at 1:00 p.m. (Commissioner Hobbs back at 1:30 p.m. Notes taken by Commissioner Gutierrez during her absence)

Op-Ed, Public Response, Communication:

Jennifer updated the Commission on the public response received to the op-ed piece published in the Lincoln Journal Star on January 10th and presented a communications strategy to build upon the awareness generated.

- 1) Build a coalition of organizations supportive of NCSW. Action steps discussed and assigned to Commissioners.
- 2) Create and sustain a strong communication mechanism with Senators. Action steps discussed and assigned to Commissioners.
- 3) Continue implementation of public awareness activities. Action steps discussed and assigned to Commissioners.

MOTION: Commissioner Gutierrez moved that the Communication plan discussed today be implemented by the Commission.

SECOND: Commissioner Micek seconded

VOTE: call taken – the vote was unanimously in favor. Motion passed.

By-Laws Update:

The group made suggested revisions to the By-Laws, Commissioner Hobbs will make those changes and will send it out to Commissioners to review and to vote on at the Annual Meeting.

Foundation Update: Chair McKillip updated the Commission on her attendance at a Nebraska Women's Foundation meeting she attended on Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Commissioners appreciated the verbal response to our letter requesting additional information.

No action necessary.

New Business:

Commissioners agreed that the April meeting should be held in Lincoln to permit work on the statute and to preserve the limited budget. Commissioner Junge-Kuzma agreed to look for a meeting space.

Closing Comments: Chair McKillip reiterated the positive energy and feedback the NCSW was receiving but announced she would not be able to serve as Chair for the next year. Commissioners are encouraged to put their names forward for vacant positions.

Adjournment: 4:05 PM

MOTION: Commissioner Esposito

SECOND: Commissioner Maxwell

VOTE: Unanimous approval to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hobbs